

## newsletter

Tel: (360)397-2022 • www.saveoursalmon.com



September 2006

**2006 Sammy Awards**

The sixth annual Clark County Sammy Awards were held June 15 at the City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center. Doug Sutherland, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands was the keynote speaker



Keynote speaker, Doug Sutherland

The Sammy selection committee chose five nominees to receive Sammy Awards and one as a Certificate of Merit winner. The Board of Commissioners gave a special Commissioners'

Award to Dean Sutherland of Clark Public Utilities for his long-time commitment to the environmental integrity of Clark County.

The recipients of the 2006 Clark County Sammy Awards are:

**Ed McMillan**

Ed McMillan has spent his professional life in engineering and surveying around the Pacific Northwest. An avid angler, Ed maintains his lifelong passion for Pacific NW salmon and steelhead recovery through volunteer opportunities. He currently serves on the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board's Technical Advisory Committee and as a board member for the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG). Ed has engineered several volunteer projects for LCFEG within Clark County such as large woody debris collectors on the Little Washougal River; placement of large woody debris in Lockwood Creek; Lower Washougal restoration project; and the Larson Creek Fish Passage Project where Evergreen High School students fabricated and installed two fishways Ed designed.

**Tom and Kozue Monahan**

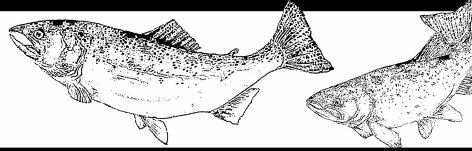
Over 20,000 native trees and shrubs cover 16 acres of Tom and Kozue Monahan's LaCenter property where reed canary grass used to be the dominate species. The Monahans saw great potential for salmon and wildlife habitat on their 20-acre Lockwood Creek property when they purchased it over ten years ago, but restoration was desperately needed. The Monahan's partnered with Clark Public Utilities, Clark Conservation District, Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to bring this project to fruition. Tom and Kozue's commitment is significant. The project took almost ten years. It included removal of a 60 year old dike, installation of 27,000 plants, and covers 16 acres including 3000 lineal feet of stream corridor. After just one flooding season, large numbers of juveniles have been observed using the newly scoured areas created by the installed large woody debris. The Monahans are setting the trend for environmental stewardship in Clark County.

**Phil Burgess**

There's a new vision of weed control in Clark County. Weed crews stalk Japanese Knotweed along county waterways wearing holsters that hold injection guns. This is due to the innovation of Clark County Weed Management Director, Phil Burgess. Several years ago Phil began experimenting with a technique of injecting the canes of the plant with herbicide as opposed to the more traditional topical application process. It took several years and a lot of persistence on behalf of Phil and the weed management staff, and the result is not only a process that works but is also salmon friendly. Phil's patented herbicide injection gun multitasks by killing the plant, keeping herbicide out of waterways, and using only the small amount of herbicide that is absolutely necessary. Many jurisdictions in the U.S. and around the world have been interested in learning how to use this weed killing system. Phil has held lectures in London and most recently at Harvard University. Now, Phil and his weed deputies are adapting the system to use on other weeds such as Himalayan Blackberries.

## newsletter

Tel: (360)397-2022 • www.saveoursalmon.com



Phil Burgess and his inoculation gun are good for fish—bad for weeds.

#### Richard Dyrland

Richard Dyrland has an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer career aimed at putting native salmon back into northwest streams. A long-time volunteer for Fish First, Richard has designed side channels for spawning on Cedar Creek and several other areas. His design work has been so successful that many of these projects had fish spawning the first year after the projects were complete. Richard diligently works long hours meeting with scientists, volunteers, and property owners to design and implement optimal conditions for salmon regeneration in our local streams. Richard has also been instrumental in writing grants to obtain funding for these salmon saving projects. As chairperson for Friends of the East Fork, Richard has worked hard to halt the degradation of salmon habitat. Through his various volunteer activities, Richard credits collaboration and coordination between volunteer groups, government agencies, and landowners as the key to unlocking the door to salmon recovery and habitat restoration. Knowledge, hard work, and diligence make Richard Dyrland an obvious choice for a Sammy Award.

#### Charlotte Akin

There are several teachers in Clark County who use the Salmon in the Classroom program, but York Elementary fifth grade teacher, Charlotte Akin



Doug Sutherland and Chairman Boldt congratulate Sammy Winner Charlotte Akin.

takes the lesson to a whole new level. While releasing their classroom-raised salmon into Rock Creek, the students work to remove Himalayan blackberries and replace them with native vegetation. The students spend time with biologists looking for signs of wildlife near the creek and learning why the native vegetation is so important for their habitat. Charlotte designs and plans this project within a year-long theme where student's learning is integrated and relevant to the world they view on a daily basis. Through this integration, students are more actively engaged and see the relationship of their schoolwork with the world they live in. Mrs. Akin's students are often among the youngest participants to exhibit their salmon-savvy knowledge at the Watershed Congress. As an educator Mrs. Akin is making sure her students not only have a complete understanding of how salmon live, but how they connect all of us as a community.

#### Dean Sutherland--2006 Commissioners Sammy Award

One decade after Dean Sutherland began work as Environmental Manager at Clark Public Utilities (CPU) his signature on salmon habitat restoration can be seen throughout the county. Dean's involvement in government and understanding of moving projects through the process of obtaining funding

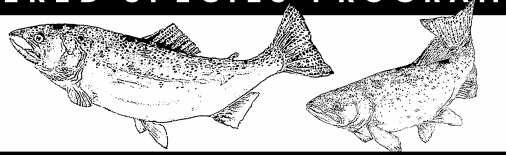


Dean Sutherland accepting his Sammy Award

and permits proved invaluable to the success of CPU's environmental program. His diplomacy and consensus-building ability have resulted in successful multi-agency projects such as The Columbia Springs Environmental Education Center and the preservation of Wood's Landing. Dean has logged many hours on various volunteer boards

## newsletter

Tel: (360)397-2022 • www.saveoursalmon.com



and committees including as an original member of the Clark County ESA Advisory Committee and the Habitat Conservation Committee. Prior to working for CPU he served almost 14 years in the Washington State legislature first in the House of Representatives and then as a Senator. While a legislator he worked on committees such as the natural resources committee, the joint select committee on marine and ocean resources, and the environmental affairs committee. As a member of the Sammy selection committee, Dean Sutherland has helped recognize many deserving volunteers over the years, now it is his turn to be honored.

#### 2006 Certificate of Merit Winner

#### Clark County Public Works, Maintenance and Operations Division

For removal of Daybreak Dike and restoring the floodplain connection to the East Fork Lewis River.

#### Habitat Conservation Ordinance Changes and Implementation Process

After a long period of review and refinement, the Habitat Conservation Ordinance was amended by the Board of County Commissioners this summer. The review is required by the Growth Management Act. Many people and interest groups participated in the review and their work resulted in numerous recommendations for consideration by the commissioners. The ESA Program provided staff support.

Substantive Changes include:

- Adding an "agricultural module" to protect habitat functions and values from impacts of existing agricultural activities.
- Changing stream types from Types 1 through 5 to Types S, F, Np and Ns in response to the state Department of Natural Resources' changes. Type S streams are waters of statewide significance; Type F streams are smaller but still have fish habitat; Type Np streams flow year-round and don't have fish habitat; and Type Ns streams are seasonal and don't have fish habitat.

- Reducing the size of the riparian habitat areas adjacent to streams that don't have fish habitat. The size went from 150 feet to 100 feet on each side of year-round streams (Type Np) and from 150 feet to 75 feet on each side of seasonal streams (Type Ns).
- Defining "best available science" and describing how to use it. The state requires use of best available science.
- Clarifying "reasonable use" and mitigation requirements for such use.
- Providing for off-site mitigation when on-site mitigations can't completely prevent impacts to habitat functions and values.
- Adding a programmatic permit section for routine maintenance of utilities in habitat areas.

Most changes became effective on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

However, the programmatic permit section becomes effective at the end of this year and the agricultural module kicks in on July 11, 2007.

These extensions allow time for development of guidelines and training for the new programs.

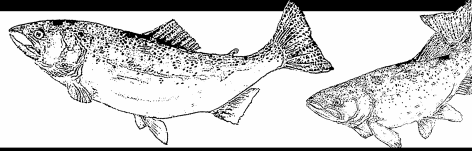
In adopting the amendments, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to work with interest groups to develop guides for using "best management practices", for native plants, and for implementing agricultural protection plans.

Cumulative Effects Funds must be established and rules written for Habitat Banks (referred to in the off-site mitigation section). Programs for education, training, outreach, preservation lands acquisition, incentives, and monitoring the effectiveness of the ordinance must also be developed.

#### Native Plant Guide

ESA staff is developing the Clark County Native Plant Communities Guide to assist people with planting native vegetation in designated habitat areas as required by the county's recently revised Habitat Conservation Ordinance (HCO). This guide will be designed as an educational tool to help people understand why it is important to use native vegetation and how to do it. The guide's purpose is to increase the chances for success by helping

## newsletter

Tel: (360)397-2022 • [www.saveoursalmon.com](http://www.saveoursalmon.com)

identify site conditions, planning projects, selecting appropriate plants, suggesting how to prepare a site, how to plant plants, maintain and care for them over time.

Native plants can stabilize streambanks, improve fish and wildlife habitat by providing shade, cover and food, filter sediment which otherwise degrade water quality and conserve water through a reduced need for watering. Plant survival increases when site conditions are matched with the appropriate plant communities. Appropriate plant selection can increase ecological functions at a site level through the reconstruction or enhancement of native plant communities. Once established these communities can become self-sustaining, providing high levels of ecological functions, services and benefits to people and the environment.

The descriptions, detailed lists and diagrams to be used in this guide are meant to help people understand the concepts as well as provide a starting point for those people wanting to learn even more. The guide will also feature a convenient "Reference and Material List" that will contain additional resources.

#### **Salmon School is now in session!**

The Clark County ESA Program has an exciting new learning resource for teachers and kids—our new Kid's Web Page. Resources for teachers include:

- Assembly and field trip ideas.
- Links to environmental education opportunities in Clark County.
- A comprehensive list of books on salmon.
- Informational fact sheets regarding salmon in Clark County.

Our specially designed Student's Page has these resources as well as helpful report writing "tips". The Kid's Art page contains links for art ideas and information on how kids can submit art to be displayed on our web page.

To get to the ESA Kid's Web Page go to our site: [www.saveoursalmon.com](http://www.saveoursalmon.com) and click on the Kids link.

#### **Clark County's ESA Outreach at the 2006 Clark County Fair**

*By Ophelia Noble*

The Clark County Endangered Species Act Program and the Washington State University Extension Watershed Stewards joined forces for another successful year at the 2006 Clark County Fair. The implementation of several suggestions from previous fair planning committees resulted in contacts with over 2,300 fair attendees (adults and children included). This is a 50% increase from last year's contacts.

The strategic focus of the ESA and Watershed Stewards was upon the three E's: **E**ducation, **E**xploration, and **E**nticement (incentive). Energies at this year fair were exhausted on educating the community about the ongoing salmon recovery efforts of Clark County's ESA as we discussed the Clean Water Program, Salmon Friendly Gardening, and Gardening with Native Plants. We also focused on the Watershed Stewards Water Quality Monitoring Program, Storm Drain Stenciling, Habitat Restoration, and Rain Barrel Project(s).

In addition, we also were able to explore the community's knowledge about their environment through the Watershed Stewards sponsored "Wheel of Fortune" game and ESA's computerized trivia game. The "new" ESA kid's page was introduced to the public at this year's fair and was a tremendous success with children of all ages.

We continued in the tradition of past fair by equipping both children and adults with knowledge by passing out pamphlets, brochures, fact sheets, and resource lists. A special thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to run the booth. Hope to you see next year!

#### **FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS**

**Clark County ADA Office V (360) 397-2025;**  
**TTY (360) 397-2445; [ADA@Clark.wa.gov](mailto:ADA@Clark.wa.gov)**

